**That Spiritual Rock that Followed Them**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-5*

**Introduction**

1. The apostle Paul began his discussion on the regulations surrounding Christian liberties in **chapter 8**.
   1. **The specific topic was that of eating meats offered to idols.**
   2. Some could do so without hurting their conscience, knowing it was from God, and thus good to eat.
   3. ***“However, there is not in everyone that knowledge” (8:7)*** – some could not do so without defiling their conscience.
   4. The instruction of **chapter 8 and 9** was to the one who could do so with a clear conscience – *how was he supposed to act around the weak, and with regard to the liberty itself (****9:24-27 – running a race, self-discipline****)?*
2. Some in Corinth were puffed up to the extent that they evidently thought they could participate in ceremonies dedicated to idols without falling from grace – ***“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (10:12).***
   1. They assumed that, since they were baptized, and had the word of God at their disposal (primarily in the abundance of spiritual gifts), and were thus children of God that they could follow these ungodly ways and be okay.
   2. **The apostle Paul used the Israelites as an example to warn them that their unfaithfulness would cost them their souls, despite their baptism, and the word of Christ they had in their possession. 🡪**
3. The Presence and Provision of Christ
4. ***“baptized into Moses”***
   1. Jacob’s sons sold his favorite son, Joseph, into slavery and he rose to power in Egypt.
   2. **When a famine came, Joseph ultimately took Jacob, his sons (Joseph’s brothers), and all their family into his care in Egypt.**
      1. **Genesis 50:20-21** – God used this in His providence to carry out His promise.
      2. **Exodus 1:7** – The Israelites grew into a great nation as God had promised.
      3. **The relationship between the Israelites and the Egyptians up to this point was positive.**
   3. **Exodus 1:8-10** – The new Pharaoh arose who did not treat the Israelites favorably.
   4. **Exodus 3:7-10** – God saw the oppressed Israelites, and determined to deliver them – **Moses would be the one who God would work through.**
      1. **NOTE: Deuteronomy 18:15** – Moses became a type of the Christ who was to come.
      2. **Just as Moses delivered the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians, Jesus would deliver the world from slavery to sin.**
   5. **1 Corinthians 10:1-2** – A reference to the Exodus from Egypt where the Lord delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians.
      1. God gave Moses instruction to give to the Israelites – to cross the Red Sea.
      2. **They followed the word of the Lord spoken by Moses – they were delivered.**
      3. ***“baptized into Moses”*** – in that they submitted to the authority in his words as a prophet of God, and were delivered.
         1. **This would continue as they were to follow the word of the Lord spoken through Moses, and the Law given through Moses.**
         2. **Exodus 15:26** – They were to follow the word of God to receive healing – Physical (compare to the diseases in Egypt), **but more importantly Spiritual**. 🡪
5. ***“that spiritual Rock that followed them”***
   1. **1 Corinthians 10:3-4a** – Paul talked about a spiritual food and drink which the Israelites were given. 🡪
   2. **The reference is to manna, and water from the rock:**
      1. **Exodus 16:3-5** – In ***“the Wilderness of Sin,”*** the Israelites grew hungry, and complained, so God determined to feed them with bread from heaven.
      2. **Exodus 17:3-6** – Again, the congregation complained about thirst, and God gave them water from the rock which Moses struck according to God’s command.
   3. **What purpose did the giving of Manna, and water from the rock serve? (Other than physical sustenance)**
      1. **Deuteronomy 8:1-6** – The Lord allowed them to hunger so they would understand fully their dependence on Him in all things.
         1. **Their sustenance did not come from their ability to provide for themselves, but from the word of God which made the manna fall.**
         2. This would ultimately have to be understood concerning spiritual matters. **If they depended on God for physical things, how much more for the spiritual?** Spiritual life and provision can only come from God, and they must follow His words to receive life.
      2. **V. 11-17** – The same was accomplished with the water from the rock as with the manna **(v. 15b-16** – occasion of water and manna mentioned together).
   4. ***“and that Rock was Christ”***
      1. **By this, the apostle Paul indicated that Christ was even with the Israelites in His pre-incarnate state.**
      2. All of the provision given to the Israelites was a work of Christ.
      3. **This included, most importantly, SPIRITUAL PROVISION IN THE WORD OF GOD.**
         1. **1 Peter 3:18-20** – It was in this way that Christ preached to those in the days of Noah – through Noah – ***“a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5).***
         2. In this language, Paul identified Jesus with God who provided for, and spoke His word to the Israelites – ***“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).***
6. ***“with most of them God was not well pleased”***
   1. **Despite the presence of Christ among the Israelites, the physical protection and provision, *and the spiritual provision offered through the word of God, they lost their souls.***
   2. **Hebrews 3:16-19** – They were given the word of God to live spiritually, but they rejected it, disobeyed, and lost their souls due to unbelief.
7. Take Heed Lest You Fall
8. ***“these things became our examples”***
   1. **The Corinthians thought they were above apostasy, so Paul used the Israelites to show this wasn’t so.**
   2. **Their baptism did not secure their salvation, nor did the provision of Christ in the word of God any more than it did for the Israelites.**
      1. **Hebrews 4:1-2** – The proclamation of the gospel does not save without obedience.
      2. **John 5:37-40** – (TO THE UNBELIEVING JEWS) Salvation was not found in the Scriptures for them because they did not believe and obey what it had to say – specifically concerning the Christ.
      3. **John 6:30-33, 35, 63-64** – Jesus is the spiritual food, and the spiritual drink – the same that was given to the Israelites, **but it does not profit those who do not believe, i.e. have FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE.**
   3. **It did not matter that the Corinthians were baptized, or that they had the provision of Christ if they did not follow and obey THE WORD OF CHRIST.**
9. Take Heed Lest You Fall
   1. **1 Corinthians 10:6-13** – In order to receive salvation ultimately in the end, the Christian must not make the same mistakes of those who lost their lives in the past. (***The Israelites had the instruction from God on how to have spiritual life, but did not obey it, and were severed from Him, losing their souls***.)
   2. **The Corinthians needed to place their confidence in God by obeying Christ’s gospel, instead of straying from it in their actions. (In this specific context, the misuse of liberties, especially allowing such to lead them to idolatrous practices.)**
   3. **Hebrews 4:11-13** – The presence of the word of Christ among us should only comfort those who abide in it. **Otherwise, the word is the greatest threat to those who disobey it.**
      1. The Israelites took the spiritual food and drink they were provided through Christ for granted.
      2. **They did not heed it, but fell in their disobedience, and that same word which was able to save them condemned them in the end.**
      3. The same is true for us 🡪 ***“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).***

**Conclusion**

1. We must not make the same mistake the Israelites made.
2. ***“That spiritual Rock that followed them”*** is with us today. **Christ provides for us spiritually through His word, but His word cannot help us unless we obey it.**
3. We must not fool ourselves into thinking we are safe simply because of our baptism, and the fact that we have the truth. **WE MUST CONTINUE TO ABIDE IN THE TRUTH TO BE SAVED IN THE END!**